

Opening Remarks (Draft) for Transport Security Technology Conference on Dec. 7 at Ritz Carlton

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the conference on transportation security technology. It is a great pleasure for us to organize this conference, inviting representatives from prominent US and Japanese companies with cutting edge technologies: Mr. Gianni Arcaini from Duos Technology, Mr. Satoshi Ishiyama from NTT Communications Corporation, Dr. Alan Lipton from Object Video, and Kazuo Takei from Hitachi will kindly participate in this conference. Thank you for participating. It is also a great honor to have two distinguished officials from the US and Japan with us. Mr. Kip Hawley, Administrator of the Transportation Security Agency, and Mr. Maruyama, Vice Minister for International Affairs of the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, thank you for coming today. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Nippon Foundation for their generous support of our activities. Their kind support enabled us to hold this conference.

Ever since the tragic September 11th terrorists attacks, security measures have been stepped up to ensure that travel and commerce are safe. I know that many of you have experienced the waiting in long lines for security checks at airports and having to take off your shoes, sometimes even your belts to your embarrassment. One of my staff traveling with a rice cooker was stopped for a special scrutiny of the equipment. Obviously that official had never seen a rice cooker before.

Although these experiences may be uncomfortable, security is high on people's minds. We've come a long way but we still have miles to go. The London bombings on mass transit in July left us fearing the risk of terrorist threats anytime, anywhere, and on any mode of transportation. These heinous terrorist attacks left more than 50 people killed, and hundreds wounded. This chain of atrocities bring it to light that we must redouble our efforts to thwart these acts of cowardice. But at the same time, we believe in freedom. Freedom of movement is an essential part of our lives. So the question we have to answer is how we can achieve two goals together, tightened security and smooth, convenient transportation services. We hope that we can do it in a smart way. We believe that technology holds the key. Although unseen, the war on terror is also fought on the edge of technological frontier.

This conference will introduce to you the state-of-the art security technologies that can protect our vital transportation system. The representatives from four leading companies will present their latest technologies including an intelligent surveillance system, explosive trace detection device, face recognition system and active RFID. Their technologies are on display outside of this conference room. Please take some time to become familiar with the technological frontier for fighting against terrorism.

IN addition to the technology presentations, two high-ranking officials from both ends of the Pacific are invited to deliver a policy address. Kip Hawley, will share with us his thoughts on the war on terror. Hiroshi Maruyama, will give us his perspective on international cooperation in the area of transportation security.

Rome wasn't built in a day. Effective will not happen overnight, either. Tireless efforts, though unnoticed, of researchers, security officials, policy makers and people like you and me, will make a difference in ensuring homeland security. I hope that this conference will give you a first-hand view of how technological development can help and in what direction government policies lead us, in fighting terrorism. I hope that at the end of this conference, you will find an answer or at least fodder for your thought to the question, how we can achieve these two goals together, tightened security and smooth, convenient transportation services. Please enjoy this conference. Thank you.